shift duty on BHS Platform from 12.7.1991 was found missing in the early hours of 23.7.1991. Immediately a through search of the entire complex and the adjoining area of 20 miles radius was made, but neither Sh. Gupta nor his body could be found. The matter was reported immediately to the Yellow Gate Police Station and the father of Shri Gupta was also informed over telephone on the same day. In addition to the investigation of the incident by police, ONCG have appointed a departmental enquiry committee to enquire into the incident.

(d) Only one such incident had taken place in the past. All possible safety measures are taken to safeguard the lives of persons working in offshore installations of ONGC. Safety devices such as sefety boats, safety rinks, escape ladders, life rafts, life jackets and life vests are provided on each of the offshore installations/rigs. In addition, the engaged on offshore duty are also imparted training in sea survival and fire fighting. A thorough medial check-up is also conducted before they are posted on offshore duty.

[*Translations*]

Hiring out of Helicopters

6462. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of apprentices at present receiving training for flying helicopters, the minimum period of training fixed for them and the number of trained pilots available in the country at present;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to look after the work of hiring out the helicopter itself; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Presently, eight trainee pilots-six Vayudoot and two from Pawan Hans - are undergoing flying training at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Urban Akademi. They are required to undergo 100 hours of flying on helicopters for obtaining the Commercial Pilot Licence. The number of trained helicopter pilots in Vayudoot and Pawan Hans is three and ninety respectively.

(b) and (c) Hiring of helicopters is done on commercial and operational considerations by their owners, namely, Vayudoot and Pawan Hans.

Catering Department at New Delhi Station

6463. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railway ke khan pan vibhag ko laklhon ka ghata"appearing in Hindi daily 'Jansatta 'dated August 11,1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the catering department of Rail Yatri Nivas near New Delhi Railway are running in losses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to improve catering department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain facts and figures contained in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Railways for the year ended 31.3.1990 have been quoted in the news item.